Date: 1/26/19

Title: Weakened by Sin

Theme: When we trust in Jesus, He makes us strong so Satan can’t break us. But sin makes us weak.

Object: Roll of paper towels, bottle of ink labeled “sin,” medicine dropper, empty plastic cup.

Text: James 1:14-15 (NLT) 14 Temptation comes from our own desires, which entice us and drag us away. 15 These desires give birth to sinful actions. And when sin is allowed to grow, it gives birth to death.

Did you hear what the Bible says about sin?

Listen again: “When sin is allowed to grow, it gives birth to death.”

If we let sin grow in our lives, we end up in the lake of fire instead of the kingdom of God.

That’s why knowing and loving Jesus is so important: He’s the only one that can forgive us and save us from sin.

How many have ever made a mess at home?

Maybe you spilled your glass of milk or juice or knocked your bowl of cereal off the table.

We all make messes don’t we? So it’s important to have something to clean them up.

So every household has one of these. [pull out roll of paper towels.]

I’m going to tear off one of these little half-sheets of paper towel and pretend this is you.

Who thinks they can rip this towel in half? [Let a volunteer easily rip the towel in half.]

Now that’s what Satan wants to do to you: he wants to destroy you with sin.

Don’t let that happen to you!

 [Take another half sheet of paper towel and roll it up into a tube then twist it tightly together along the entire length of the towel. This makes it much stronger. Say something like this:]

Now let’s take another paper towel and see what Jesus can do to make us stronger.

The Bible says that if we love and trust in Jesus, He can make us a new creation.

So now we give our hearts to Jesus and ask Him to be our Savior and Friend.

And Jesus takes our life and bends our hearts around the things of God.

And He helps us to love the things of God instead of the things of the world.

We are still the same person, but God is giving us strength to resist the devil.

Now who thinks they are strong enough to pull this paper towel apart?

[Choose a strong volunteer. Pass the twisted paper towel to him making sure to keep it tightly twisted. Let him try to pull it apart. Chances are, he will fail. If not, choose a weaker volunteer!]

You see the difference? Satan can’t tear you apart because Jesus made you strong.

When we stay close to Jesus and allow Him to forgive our sins, Satan cannot destroy us in the lake of fire.

[Don’t let go of that paper towel… we have one more thing to demonstrate.]

What do you think will happen to this Christian if he starts to allow sin to build up in his life?

Do you think that will make him weaker?

Here’s a bottle of sin. [Show ink bottle labeled sin.]

And we’re going to add a few drops of sin to this Christian’s life.

[Take medicine dropper and add one drop at a time up to about 5 or 6 drops right in the middle of the twisted paper towel. Hold cup under to catch any stray drops.]

Here’s the sin of selfishness, here’s the sin of hatred, here’s the sin of disobeying parents, here’s the sin of lying and cheating, here’s the sin of taking things that belong to others, here’s the sin of using bad words and taking God’s name in vain….

Now let’s see what all this sin has done to this person. See if you can break the paper towel now.

It was easy, right?

So what does sin do to us? It makes us weak.

And if we don’t get rid of sin it destroys us.

But here’s the good news: if we mess up and sin, we can tell Jesus we’re sorry and ask Him to forgive us.

And He will take away our sins and make us strong again like it never even happened.

How many want Jesus to take their sins and make them strong again?